

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

August 18, 2008

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, August 18, 2008, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Leslie Ryan and Davida Irving were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 21, 2008, as amended (the motion to appoint James N. Nadeau and Company to complete the district's 2008-2009 annual audit carried with a vote of 4-0-1, with Shea Butcher abstaining) carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the fiscal report through July 31, 2008, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

The report dated July 23, 2008, submitted by Susan Stevenson and Christopher Suchmann regarding the appropriateness of rooms used in delivering special education services was reviewed. The

committee will work with Attorney Myers and the consultants to formulate policies. The committee will continue its own investigation into the matters that led up to the report.

Dr. Irving gave the following report:

- The custodial staff has been hard at work to get the building ready for the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. The teachers will return on Tuesday, September 2 with the annual breakfast at the 1661 Inn. The students will start on Wednesday. The beginning of the year packets will be going home to parents later this week.**
- Spanish will be offered to students in grades K-4.**
- Updated the School Committee on the curriculum work that will be taking place this year.**
- Asked for and was granted unanimous approval to purchase a second active board in the amount of \$5,878 with funding from the REAP grant.**
- Asked for and was granted approval to have Gene Warfel update the networks on August 23 and 24.**
- Asked for permission to put the network management out to bid. William Padien will work on this with Dr. Irving.**
- A sink is being installed in the cafeteria for student use after lunch so that no doors, railings, etc. will be contaminated with peanut butter or other nut products because one or more of our students has a peanut allergy.**
- She is working on updating several policies – hats, the use of electronic devices including cell phones, and senior privileges.**

Mrs. Ryan reported that one of the goals of the school improvement team was to increase mental health services to the school and community. She was pleased to announce that Block Island School is the recipient of an \$82,000 grant to supply mental health workers (social worker and psychologist) to work with our students and their parents/families and faculty and staff. The only cost to the school would be lodging, when necessary, and transportation expenses.

Mrs. Ryan reported that Dr. Virginia Seccombe is the new director at SORICO. New services will be offered to Block Island through the use of the Polycom.

Old Business

The General Assembly passed S3017, which allows Block Island School to remain in session on general election and statewide primary days. An amended calendar for the 2008-09 school year which includes September 9 as a school day for all staff and students was submitted for School Committee information. The 180th day and graduation day are now on June 17, with make-up days June 18-24. November 4 will remain as a teacher work day. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the amended calendar for the 2008-2009 school year as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

The athletic director job description was updated and reviewed by Attorney Myers, who made several changes. A motion (Padien,

McGarry) to accept the athletic direction job description as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

Both the School Committee Policy Proposals/Revisions and the Architectural RFP agenda items were tabled.

A proposal and several attachments from New England Systems and Solutions, LLC, the company that will provide the Accufund accounting software to meet the requirements of the uniform chart of accounts, was submitted for School Committee review. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the purchase of the Accufund Accounting Software and authorize Nancy Cole to sign the agreement letter carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to accept with regret the resignation of Laura Lehrman-Kelly as a school social worker as of the end of September 2008 carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to Greta Heinz's request for an extension of her maternity leave through the end of the first quarter of the 2008-09 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Stacy Ferraro as the full-time teacher assistant carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to consent to the appointment of Donna Smith as the full-time speech/language pathologist for 2008-09 school year only carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Kathleen Mello as a part-time (0.6 FTE) special education teacher for the 2008-2009 school year carried with a vote of 5-0. Ms Mello is currently a 0.4 FTE special education teacher and with this additional appointment will be full-time for the 2008-2009 school year.

The annual appointment of the athletic coaches for the 2008-09 seasons was tabled.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the request for a waiver of the facility use fee for a special financial town meeting scheduled for September 23, 2008, in the school cafeteria carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the months of August and September was submitted for School Committee information. The next regular School Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2008.

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to seal the executive session minutes carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve an annual three-percent wage increase for the members of the Town Employees Association with no co-payment for medical benefits for three years carried with a vote of 5-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to adjourn the meeting carried with a vote of 5-0.

Ann Hall, Secretary

Date approved: September 15, 2008

****Double asterisk is used to define motions in the minutes for easier identification.**